

CHAPTER 2024-274

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1600

An act relating to interstate mobility; amending s. 455.213, F.S.; providing requirements for the applicable board, or the Department of Business and Professional Regulation if there is no board, relating to licensure by reciprocity and by endorsement; defining the term “basis license”; creating s. 455.2135, F.S.; requiring the respective boards of occupations, or the Department of Business and Professional Regulation if there is no board, to allow licensure by endorsement if applicant meets certain criteria; requiring applicants of professions that require fingerprints for criminal history checks to submit such fingerprints before the board or department issues a license by endorsement; requiring the department, and authorizing the board, as applicable, to review the results of the criminal history checks according to specified criteria to determine if the applicants meet the requirements for licensure; requiring that the costs associated with fingerprint processing be borne by the applicant; if fingerprints are submitted through an authorized agency or vendor, requiring such agency or vendor to collect the processing fees and remit them to the Department of Law Enforcement; providing an exception; creating s. 456.0145, F.S.; providing a short title; requiring the applicable health care regulatory boards, or the Department of Health if there is no board, to issue a license or certificate to applicants who meet specified conditions; defining the term “scope of practice”; requiring the department to verify certain information using the National Practitioner Data Bank, as applicable; specifying circumstances under which a person is ineligible for a license; authorizing boards or the department, as applicable, to revoke a license upon a specified finding; requiring boards or the department, as applicable, to issue licenses to qualified applicants within a specified timeframe; authorizing boards or the department, as applicable, to require that applicants successfully complete a jurisprudential examination under certain circumstances; requiring the department to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing requirements for the report; requiring the boards or the department, as applicable, to adopt certain rules within a specified timeframe; amending ss. 457.105, 458.313, 464.009, 464.203, 465.0075, 467.0125, 468.1185, 468.1705, 468.209, 468.213, 468.513, 478.47, 480.041, 484.007, 486.081, 486.107, 490.006, and 491.006, F.S.; revising licensure by endorsement requirements for the practice of acupuncture, medicine, professional or practical nursing, certified nursing, pharmacy, midwifery, speech-language pathology and audiology, nursing home administration, occupational therapy, dietetics and nutrition, electrology, massage therapy, opticianry, physical therapy, physical therapist assistantship, psychology and school psychology, and clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental health counseling, respectively; amending ss. 486.031 and 486.102, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; authorizing the boards or the Department of Health, as applicable,

to continue processing applications for licensure by endorsement, as authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023), for a specified timeframe; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Present subsection (15) of section 455.213, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (16), and a new subsection (15) is added to that section, to read:

455.213 General licensing provisions.—

(15)(a) Before the board, or the department if there is no board, may deny an application for licensure by reciprocity or by endorsement, the board, or the department if there is no board, must make a finding that the basis license in another jurisdiction is or is not substantially equivalent to or is otherwise insufficient for a license in this state.

(b) If the board, or the department if there is no board, finds that the basis license in another jurisdiction is not substantially equivalent to or is otherwise insufficient for a license in this state and there are no other grounds to deny the application for licensure, within 7 business days after being notified of such finding, the applicant may request that the finding be submitted to the secretary for review. Within 7 business days after receiving such request, the secretary must review the finding and either agree or disagree with the finding. If the secretary agrees with the finding, the application for licensure may be denied. If the secretary disagrees with the finding, the application for licensure must be approved unless other grounds for denial exist. The decision must be entered according to the secretary's finding, unless other grounds for denial exist.

(c) If the secretary finds that the requirements of a basis license in another jurisdiction are substantially equivalent to or are otherwise sufficient for a license in this state, the board, or the department if there is no board, must make the same finding for similar applicants from the same jurisdiction, unless the requirements of the basis license change.

(d) As used in this subsection, the term “basis license” means the license or the licensure requirements of another jurisdiction which are used to meet the requirements for a license in this state.

Section 2. Section 455.2135, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

455.2135 Interstate mobility.—

(1) When endorsement based upon years of licensure or endorsement based upon satisfaction or completion of multiple criteria that include passage of a licensure or registration examination, completion of internship requirements, or the holding of a valid certificate issued by a national accrediting agency board along with holding a valid license, registration, or

certification issued in another jurisdiction is not otherwise provided by law in the practice act for a profession, the board, or the department if there is no board, shall allow licensure by endorsement for any individual applying who:

(a) Has held a valid, current license to practice the profession issued by another state or territory of the United States for at least 5 years before the date of application and is applying for the same or similar license in this state;

(b) Submits an application either when the license in another state or territory is active or within 2 years after such license was last active;

(c) Has passed the recognized national licensing exam, if such exam is established as a requirement for licensure in the profession;

(d) Has no pending disciplinary actions and all sanctions of any prior disciplinary actions have been satisfied;

(e) Shows proof of compliance with any federal regulation, training, or certification, if the board or the department requires such proof, regarding licensure in the profession;

(f) Completes Florida-specific continuing education courses or passes a jurisprudential examination specific to the state laws and rules for the applicable profession as established by the board or department; and

(g) Complies with any insurance or bonding requirements as required for the profession.

(2) If the practice act for a profession requires the submission of fingerprints, the applicant must submit a complete set of fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for a statewide criminal history check. The Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The department shall, and the board may, review the results of the criminal history checks according to the level 2 screening standards in s. 435.04 and determine whether the applicant meets the licensure requirements. The costs of fingerprint processing are borne by the applicant. If the applicant's fingerprints are submitted through an authorized agency or vendor, the agency or vendor must collect the required processing fees and remit the fees to the Department of Law Enforcement.

(3) This section does not apply to harbor pilots licensed under chapter 310.

Section 3. Section 456.0145, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

456.0145 Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement (MOBILE) Act.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement Act” or the “MOBILE Act.”

(2) LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT.—

(a) An applicable board, or the department if there is no board, shall issue a license to practice in this state to an applicant who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Submits a complete application.

2. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States in a profession with a similar scope of practice, as determined by the board or department, as applicable. The term “scope of practice” means the full spectrum of functions, procedures, actions, and services that a health care practitioner is deemed competent and authorized to perform under a license issued in this state.

3.a. Has obtained a passing score on a national licensure examination or holds a national certification recognized by the board, or the department if there is no board, as applicable to the profession for which the applicant is seeking licensure in this state; or

b. Meets the requirements of paragraph (b).

4. Has actively practiced the profession for which the applicant is applying for at least 3 years during the 4-year period immediately preceding the date of submission of the application.

5. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of submission of the application, the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is applying.

6. Has not had disciplinary action taken against him or her in the 5 years immediately preceding the date of submission of the application.

7. Meets the financial responsibility requirements of s. 456.048 or the applicable practice act, if required for the profession for which the applicant is seeking licensure.

8. Submits a set of fingerprints for a background screening pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the profession for which he or she is applying.

The department shall verify information submitted by the applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner Data Bank, as applicable.

(b) An applicant for a profession that does not require a national examination or national certification is eligible for licensure if an applicable board, or the department if there is no board, determines that the

jurisdiction in which the applicant currently holds an active, unencumbered license meets established minimum education requirements and, if applicable, examination, work experience, and clinical supervision requirements that are substantially similar to the requirements for licensure in that profession in this state.

(c) A person is ineligible for a license under this section if the he or she:

1. Has a complaint, an allegation, or an investigation pending before a licensing entity in another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States;

2. Has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession;

3. Has had a health care provider license revoked or suspended by another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States, or has voluntarily surrendered any such license in lieu of having disciplinary action taken against the license; or

4. Has been reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, unless the applicant has successfully appealed to have his or her name removed from the data bank.

(d) The board, or the department if there is no board, may revoke a license upon finding that the licensee provided false or misleading material information or intentionally omitted material information in an application for licensure.

(e) The board, or the department if there is no board, shall issue a license to a qualified applicant within 7 days after receipt of all documentation required for an application.

(3) STATE EXAMINATION.—The board, or the department if there is no board, may require an applicant to successfully complete a jurisprudential examination specific to state laws and rules that regulate the applicable profession, if this chapter or the applicable practice act requires such examination.

(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—By December 31 of each year, the department shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which provides all of the following information for the previous fiscal year, distinguished by profession:

(a) The number of applications for licensure received under this section.

(b) The number of licenses issued under this section.

(c) The number of applications submitted under this section which were denied and the reason for such denials.

(d) The number of complaints, investigations, or other disciplinary actions taken against health care practitioners who are licensed under this section.

(5) RULES.—Each applicable board, or the department if there is no board, shall adopt rules to implement this section within 6 months after this section's effective date, including rules relating to legislative intent under s. 456.025(1) and the requirements of s. 456.025(3).

Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 457.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

(2) A person may become licensed to practice acupuncture if the person applies to the department and:

(c) ~~Has successfully completed a board-approved national certification process, meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 is actively licensed in a state that has examination requirements that are substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those of this state, or passes an examination administered by the department, which examination tests the applicant's competency and knowledge of the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine. At the request of any applicant, oriental nomenclature for the points shall be used in the examination. The examination shall include a practical examination of the knowledge and skills required to practice modern and traditional acupuncture and oriental medicine, covering diagnostic and treatment techniques and procedures; and~~

Section 5. Section 458.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See s. 458.313, F.S., for present text.)

458.313 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fees.—The department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon applying to the department on forms furnished by the department and remitting a fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed \$500, the board certifies has met the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

Section 6. Section 464.009, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See s. 464.009, F.S., for present text.)

464.009 Licensure by endorsement.—

(1) The department shall issue the appropriate license by endorsement to practice professional or practical nursing to any applicant who, upon

applying to the department and remitting a fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed \$100, demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

(2) A person holding an active multistate license in another state pursuant to s. 464.0095 is exempt from the requirements for licensure by endorsement in this section.

Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 464.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

464.203 Certified nursing assistants; certification requirement.—

(1) The board shall issue a certificate to practice as a certified nursing assistant to any person who demonstrates a minimum competency to read and write and successfully passes the required background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. If the person has successfully passed the required background screening pursuant to s. 400.215 or s. 408.809 within 90 days before applying for a certificate to practice and the person’s background screening results are not retained in the clearinghouse created under s. 435.12, the board shall waive the requirement that the applicant successfully pass an additional background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. The person must also meet one of the following requirements:

~~(c) Has been deemed by the board as eligible for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 Is currently certified in another state or territory of the United States or in the District of Columbia; is listed on that jurisdiction’s certified nursing assistant registry; and has not been found to have committed abuse, neglect, or exploitation in that jurisdiction.~~

Section 8. Section 465.0075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

(Substantial rewording of section. See s. 465.0075, F.S., for present text.)

465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—The department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting a nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed \$100, the board certifies has met the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 467.0125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

467.0125 Licensed midwives; qualifications; endorsement; temporary certificates.—

(1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to practice midwifery to an applicant who, ~~upon applying to the department,~~ demonstrates to the department that she or he meets all of the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145, following criteria:

~~(a) Holds an active, unenumerated license to practice midwifery in another state, jurisdiction, or territory, provided the licensing requirements of that state, jurisdiction, or territory at the time the license was issued were substantially equivalent to or exceeded those established under this chapter and the rules adopted hereunder.~~

~~(b) Has successfully completed a prelicensure course conducted by an accredited and approved midwifery program.~~

(e) submits an application for licensure on a form approved by the department, and pays the appropriate fee.

Section 10. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 468.1185, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

468.1185 Licensure.—

~~(3) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist an applicant who:~~

~~(a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state or territory of the United States to practice the profession for which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this state at the time the license was issued; or~~

~~(b) Holds a valid certificate of clinical competence of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association or board certification in audiology from the American Board of Audiology.~~

~~(3)(4) The board may refuse to certify any person applying for licensure under this section applicant who is under investigation in any jurisdiction for an act which would constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until the investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been terminated.~~

Section 11. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 468.1705, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

468.1705 Licensure by endorsement; temporary license.—

(1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting a fee set by the board not to exceed \$500, demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145:

~~(a) Meets one of the following requirements:~~

~~1. Holds a valid active license to practice nursing home administration in another state of the United States, provided that the current requirements~~

for licensure in that state are substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than, current requirements in this state; or

2. ~~Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 468.1695; and~~

~~(b)1. Has successfully completed a national examination which is substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than, the examination given by the department;~~

~~2. Has passed an examination on the laws and rules of this state governing the administration of nursing homes; and~~

~~3. Has worked as a fully licensed nursing home administrator for 2 years within the 5-year period immediately preceding the application by endorsement.~~

~~(2) National examinations for licensure as a nursing home administrator shall be presumed to be substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than, the examination and requirements in this state, unless found otherwise by rule of the board.~~

~~(2)(3) The department may shall not issue a license by endorsement or a temporary license to any applicant who is under investigation in this or another state for any act which would constitute a violation of this part until such time as the investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been terminated.~~

Section 12. Subsection (3) of section 468.209, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.209 Requirements for licensure.—

(3) If the board determines that an applicant is qualified to be licensed by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~s. 468.213~~, the board may issue the applicant a temporary permit to practice occupational therapy until the next board meeting at which license applications are to be considered, but not for a longer period of time. Only one temporary permit by endorsement shall be issued to an applicant, and it shall not be renewable.

Section 13. Section 468.213, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.213 Licensure by endorsement; waiver of examination requirement.

(1) The board may ~~waive the examination and~~ grant a license to any person who meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~presents proof of current certification as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant by a national certifying organization if the board determines the requirements for such certification to be equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this act.~~

(2) The board may waive the examination and grant a license to any applicant who presents proof of current licensure as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant in ~~a another state, the District of Columbia, or any territory or jurisdiction of the United States or foreign national jurisdiction which requires standards for licensure determined by the board to be equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this part~~ act.

Section 14. Section 468.513, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.—

(1) The department shall issue a license to practice dietetics and nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~the board certifies as qualified, upon receipt of a completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.~~

~~(2) The board shall certify as qualified for licensure by endorsement under this section any applicant who:~~

~~(a) Presents evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she is a registered dietitian; or~~

~~(b) Holds a valid license to practice dietetics or nutrition issued by another state, district, or territory of the United States, if the criteria for issuance of such license are determined by the board to be substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those of this state.~~

~~(3) The department shall not issue a license by endorsement under this section to any applicant who is under investigation in any jurisdiction for any act which would constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until such time as the investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been terminated.~~

Section 15. Section 478.47, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

478.47 Licensure by endorsement.—The department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon submitting submits an application and the required fees as set forth in s. 478.55, demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~and who holds an active license or other authority to practice electrology in a jurisdiction whose licensure requirements are determined by the board to be equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this state.~~

Section 16. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section 480.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

480.041 Massage therapists; qualifications; licensure; endorsement.—

(5) The board shall adopt rules:

(c) Specifying licensing procedures for practitioners desiring to be licensed in this state who meet the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 or hold an active license and have practiced in ~~any other state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States or any foreign national jurisdiction which has licensing standards substantially similar to, equivalent to, or more stringent than the standards of this state.~~

Section 17. Present subsections (3) and (4) of section 484.007, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4) and (5), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that section, and subsection (1) of that section is amended, to read:

484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical establishments.—

(1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a licensure examination. The department shall examine each applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

(a) Has completed the application form and remitted a nonrefundable application fee set by the board, in the amount of \$100 or less, and an examination fee set by the board, in the amount of \$325 plus the actual per applicant cost to the department for purchase of portions of the examination from the American Board of Opticianry or a similar national organization, or less, and refundable if the board finds the applicant ineligible to take the examination.;

(b) Is not younger less than 18 years of age.;

(c) Is a graduate of an accredited high school or possesses a certificate of equivalency of a high school education.;

(d)1. Has received an associate degree, or its equivalent, in opticianry from an educational institution the curriculum of which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the United States Department of Education or the Council on Postsecondary Education or approved by the board;

~~2. Is an individual licensed to practice the profession of opticianry pursuant to a regulatory licensing law of another state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, who has actively practiced in such other state, territory, or jurisdiction for more than 3 years immediately preceding application, and who meets the examination qualifications as provided in this subsection;~~

~~3. Is an individual who has actively practiced in another state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States for more than 5 years immediately preceding application and who provides tax or business records, affidavits, or other satisfactory documentation of such practice and who meets the examination qualifications as provided in this subsection; or~~

2.4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department and paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of the board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5 years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in a recognized school may be considered as part of the apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish administrative processing fees sufficient to cover the cost of administering apprentice rules as promulgated by the board.

(3) The board shall certify to the department for licensure by endorsement any applicant who meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

Section 18. Section 486.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

486.081 Physical therapist; issuance of license by endorsement; issuance of license without examination to person passing examination of another authorized examining board in a foreign country; fee.—

(1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any applicant who meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 or, without examination, to any applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the board of having passed ~~the American Registry Examination prior to 1971 or~~ an examination in physical therapy before a similar lawfully authorized examining board of ~~another state, the District of Columbia, a territory, or a~~ foreign country; if the standards for licensure in physical therapy in such ~~other state, district, territory, or~~ foreign country are determined by the board to be as high as those of this state, as established by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. Any person who holds a license pursuant to this section may use the words “physical therapist” or “physiotherapist” or the letters “P.T.” in connection with her or his name or place of business to denote her or his licensure hereunder. A person who holds a license pursuant to this section and obtains a doctoral degree in physical therapy may use the letters “D.P.T.” and “P.T.” A physical therapist who holds a degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy may not use the title “doctor” without also clearly informing the public of his or her profession as a physical therapist.

(2) At the time of making application for licensure under without examination pursuant to the terms of this section, the applicant shall pay to the department a nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed \$175 as ~~fixed by the board, no part of which will be returned.~~

Section 19. Section 486.107, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

486.107 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of license by endorsement ~~without examination to person licensed in another jurisdiction~~; fee.—

(1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any applicant who presents evidence to the board, under oath, of meeting the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~licensure in another state, the District of Columbia, or a territory, if the standards for registering as a physical therapist assistant or licensing of a physical therapist assistant, as the case may be, in such other state are determined by the board to be as high as those of this state, as established by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter.~~ Any person who holds a license pursuant to this section may use the words “physical therapist assistant,” or the letters “P.T.A.,” in connection with her or his name to denote licensure hereunder.

(2) At the time of making application for licensure by endorsement under licensing without examination pursuant to the terms of this section, the applicant shall pay to the department a nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed \$175 as fixed by the board, no part of which will be returned.

Section 20. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 490.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

(1) The department shall license a person as a psychologist or school psychologist who, upon applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee, demonstrates to the department or, in the case of psychologists, to the board that the applicant meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145:

(a) ~~Is a diplomate in good standing with the American Board of Professional Psychology, Inc.; or~~

(b) ~~Possesses a doctoral degree in psychology and has at least 10 years of experience as a licensed psychologist in any jurisdiction or territory of the United States within the 25 years preceding the date of application.~~

(2) ~~In addition to meeting the requirements for licensure set forth in subsection (1), an applicant must pass that portion of the psychology or school psychology licensure examinations pertaining to the laws and rules related to the practice of psychology or school psychology in this state before the department may issue a license to the applicant.~~

(3) ~~The department shall not issue a license by endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in this or another jurisdiction for an act which would constitute a violation of this chapter until such time as the investigation is complete, at which time the provisions of s. 490.009 shall apply.~~

Section 21. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 491.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

(1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee, demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145:

~~(a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental health counseling.~~

~~(b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for 3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;~~

~~2. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing examination in another state or has passed the licensure examination in this state in the profession for which the applicant seeks licensure; and~~

~~3. Holds a license in good standing, is not under investigation for an act that would constitute a violation of this chapter, and has not been found to have committed any act that would constitute a violation of this chapter.~~

(2) The fees paid by any applicant for certification as a master social worker under this section are nonrefundable.

~~(2) The department shall not issue a license or certificate by endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in this or another jurisdiction for an act which would constitute a violation of this chapter until such time as the investigation is complete, at which time the provisions of s. 491.009 shall apply.~~

Section 22. Subsection (3) of section 486.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant must:

(3)(a) Have been graduated from a school of physical therapy which has been approved for the educational preparation of physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States Department of Education at the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination prior to 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical therapist as hereinafter provided;

(b) Have received a diploma from a program in physical therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for the educational preparation of physical therapists in this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,

and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical therapist as hereinafter provided; or

(c) Be entitled to licensure by endorsement or without examination as provided in s. 486.081.

Section 23. Subsection (3) of section 486.102, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a physical therapist assistant, an applicant must:

(3)(a) Have been graduated from a school giving a course of not less than 2 years for physical therapist assistants, which has been approved for the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants by the appropriate accrediting agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States Department of Education, at the time of her or his graduation and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter provided;

(b) Have been graduated from a school giving a course for physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter provided;

(c) Be entitled to licensure by endorsement ~~without examination~~ as provided in s. 486.107; or

(d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1, 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

1. Have been graduated or be eligible to graduate from such school no later than July 1, 2018; and

2. Have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination to determine his or her fitness for practice as a physical therapist assistant as provided in s. 486.104.

Section 24. Notwithstanding the changes made to the Florida Statutes (2023) by this act, a board as defined in s. 456.001, Florida Statutes, or the Department of Health, as applicable, may continue processing applications for licensure by endorsement as authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023) until the rules adopted by such board or the department to implement

the changes made by this act take effect or until 6 months after the effective date of this act, whichever occurs first.

Section 25. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor June 28, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 28, 2024.